

# Record Traffic From The Past



## SIGNAL CORPS HISTORY TEST

*Editor's Note: The Signal Corps has a rich history and tradition which deserves to be recognized. This tongue-in-cheek test may help all signal types to be more aware of our colorful heritage. To figure your score, just count one point for each correct answer.*

1. Who is the founder of the Signal Corps, and what was his original vocation?
2. Name five Signal Corps general officers still on active duty.
3. What does "wigwags" mean to you?
4. Where is the "Home of the Signal Corps"?
5. What year did the Signal Corps become a separate Army branch?
6. What was the "flying telegraph"?
7. What military branch established the first weather information service (1870-1890) and was also responsible for the entire Army aviation program (balloons to biplanes) between 1863 and 1918?
8. What was Adolphus W. Greely famous for?
9. Who was SGT George W. Rice?
10. Who was 1LT Thomas E. Selfridge?
11. What did MAJ Edwin H. Armstrong invent?
12. What patent is held by COL William R. Blair?
13. When and where was the first radio signal bounced off the moon and returned to earth?
14. Who was the only chief signal officer to wear three stars?
15. What does *Pro patria vigilans* mean?
16. A father and his son were both MG's and both chief signal officers. Who were they?
17. What was the largest combat signal unit ever established?
18. How many Signal Corps personnel, officer and enlisted, have won the Congressional Medal of Honor?
19. Name one Signal Corps recipient of the Medal of Honor.
20. Name the Signal Corps carrier pigeon who saved over 100 British soldiers in WWII.

## SCORING

- 0 Join the Navy.
- 1-5 Don't feel too bad, because at least 95 percent will fall in this category.
- 6-10 Not bad. You've done better than most, if you didn't cheat.
- 11-15 Outstanding, unless you have served a combination of 10 or more years between Fort Monmouth and Fort Gordon.
- 16-19 HIGHER THAN ANYONE'S EVER SCORED. Write a book on the Signal Corps and make your first million.
- 20 You will be stuffed and permanently mounted in the new Signal Corps museum at Fort Gordon.

## ANSWERS

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1. BG Albert J. Meyer, who originally was a doctor commissioned as an assistant surgeon in the Regular Army in 1854.
2. LTC Kissinger; MG's Crawford, Grombacher, Hoover, Meyer, Rienzi, and Rockwell; BG's Adams, Blair, Cheney, Hancock, Hilsman, Kennedy, Lewis, Ogden, Paige, Raacke, Rolya, Swenson, Symmes, and Templeman.
3. The traditional Signal Corps signaling flags.
4. Fort Gordon, GA. (You're out of touch if your answer was Fort Monmouth, NJ.)
5. 3 March 1863. However, the recognized "birthday" of the Signal Corps is 21 June 1860, when Albert Meyer was commissioned a major and became the first chief signal officer.
6. The Beardslee magneto-electric telegraph set, used in transportable wagons and railroad trains. It got its nickname from the connecting lines that were strung from poles and trees which "flew through the air." (Bet you thought the answer was "balloons.")
7. The United States Army Signal Corps. (We had to put in at least one "GIMME.")
8. Led the first explorations of the Arctic in 1883. Also was promoted to BG from CPT to become chief signal officer in 1887. Received Medal of Honor in 1935 by special Congressional Act.
9. The Army's first photographer. Died during Greely's Arctic trip.
10. A field artillery officer on TDY with the Signal Corps who was the first man killed in a heavier-than-air powered aircraft (1908). He was a passenger in the plane piloted by Orville Wright who was injured in the crash.
11. The superheterodyne circuit and FM radio.
12. The basic patent for American radar.
13. 10 January 1946 at Camp Evans, Belmar, NJ (Project Diana).
14. LTC James D. O'Connell (1955-1958).
15. Watchful for the Country. It appears on the Signal School crest.
16. MG George S. Gibbs (1928-1931) and MG David P. Gibbs (1963-1966).
17. The 1st Signal Brigade in the Republic of Vietnam.
18. Five.
19. PVT M. D. Land (1865), PFC W. C. Barnes (1881), ILT C. E. Kilbourne (1899), ILT G. Johnson (1906), and MG A. W. Greely (1935).
20. G.I. Joe. (You didn't read our first issue if you blew this one.)